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From: "Morning Energy" <morningenergy@politico.com>
Sent: Wed 9/26/2012 1:36:58 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Energy, powered by America's Natural Gas Alliance: Whitman wants Mass.-era Romney back - 'War on coal' ads now include mine union prez, Manchin - Consumer Reports pans Karma - BLM sets Alaska lease auction
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By Alex Guillén

With help from Darren Goode and Erica Martinson

WHITMAN WANTS MASSACHUSETTS-ERA ROMNEY BACK: Former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman hopes to see a bit more of Gov. Mitt Romney rather than presidential nominee Mitt Romney in the coming weeks - at least on environmental issues. "I'd hope he'd go back to the way he was as governor of Massachusetts," said Whitman, a George W. Bush-era EPA chief, during an interview with POLITICO on Tuesday. "Because in that position, he was finding the balance that can be struck between environmental protection and economic growth, because it's not a zero-sum game." Darius Dixon has the story for Pros: <http://politico.pro/TzQq6t>

HAPPY WEDNESDAY and welcome to Morning Energy, where your morning host is thinking of taking some time off to sub in for NFL referees. Sure, we have no idea how football is played, but if our coworker's complaints are any indication, neither to the current refs. Send your NFL rulebooks - and your energy news - to aguillen@politico.com, and follow on Twitter [@alexsguillen](#), [@Morning_Energy](#) and [@POLITICOPro](#).

COLLATERAL DAMAGE IN 'WAR ON COAL'? President Barack Obama has been the target of Republicans' anger on the coal issue, and in coal country, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson could be public enemy No 1. But the latest attack ad identifies not just Obama and Jackson, but also one mine

union organizer and perhaps the coal industry's most dependable Senate Democrat. Erica Martinson: <http://politico.pro/RW3wty>

KARMA IS A... WELL, YOU KNOW: This won't come as a big surprise to ME readers who remember the Fisker Karma whose battery died on the Consumer Reports test track, but the reviews magazine gives the plug-in hybrid two thumbs down. But the magazine's complaints extend beyond the failures that sent the Karma back to the dealer multiple times. "There are bigger issues here, compromises inherent in the car's basic design and execution. The Karma falls short with: poor dash controls, limited visibility, a cramped interior, awkward access into and out of the seats, an engine that is noisy when running, long battery recharge times, and a small backseat and trunk. The Karma's heavy, SUV-like weight affects agility and performance, and the Karma lacks the oomph you would expect." Consumer Reports: <http://bit.ly/P0W4qQ>

SPEAKING OF EVS: Electric automaker Tesla, which received a \$465 million loan from DOE's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing program, said in an SEC filing Tuesday that it has reached an agreement with DOE to put off a \$14.6 million payment due Oct. 15 until February 2013 and dropped a requirement that the company maintain a certain ratio of assets to liability. In return, Tesla will work with DOE to devise a faster payback plan. Tesla disclosed the change in its loan deal Tuesday as it also downgraded its revenue forecast and announced plans to sell off more than 4 million shares to net \$128.3 million to \$147.6 million in proceeds. The SEC filing: <http://bit.ly/QSPog9>

While we're on the topic of cars: Pro Tech's Michelle Quinn reports that California has legalized driverless cars: <http://politico.pro/SkH1wW>

BLM SETS ALASKA LEASE AUCTION: The Bureau of Land Management will auction off drilling rights for oil and gas properties in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve, the second time in the past year the BLM has put acreage in the northern part of the state under the hammer. The new sale includes 400 tracts covering 4.5 million acres. The previous sale on Dec. 7 yielded \$3.64 million, which was split 50-50 between the state and the federal government.

NADER WEIGHS IN: Ralph Nader made waves yesterday when he said in a POLITICO interview that Obama is a "war criminal." But the former Green Party presidential candidate had plenty to say on energy issues. Video: <http://politi.co/Utecfl>

On Obama and renewable energy: "I like the way he's emphasized renewable energy, even though he still supports nuclear and fossil fuels - as if they're all the same, you know, all of the above. But he does speak more about renewables than most any president perhaps since Jimmy Carter."

On industry money in the campaign: "There's just too much money that has to be raised for the campaign. And if you look at the hospitality suites in Charlotte and Tampa, they weren't exactly anti-global-warming hospitality suites. They were the coal industry, the energy industry and the gas industry. And the money pours in. And he basically thinks he's got the liberals on the climate issue and solar energy - they got nowhere to go - and so he's trying to carve out a slice of additional voters on the right side of the spectrum."

On the Keystone XL pipeline: "Everybody, even the environmentalists, knows he's going to approve it right after the election."

REPORT PREDICTS 100 MILLION DEATHS BY 2030 IF NO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION: From Reuters: "More than 100 million people will die and global economic growth will be cut by 3.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030 if the world fails to tackle climate change, a report commissioned by 20 governments said on Wednesday. As global average temperatures rise due to greenhouse gas emissions, the effects on the planet, such as melting ice caps, extreme weather, drought and rising sea levels, will threaten populations and livelihoods, said the report conducted by humanitarian organization DARA." Reuters: <http://reut.rs/QwoGfL>

ROMNEY'S CLIMATE POSITION CONCERNS EU OFFICIALS: The Guardian reports that EU officials are "privately alarmed" at the prospect a Romney win in November holds for international climate talks. "[H]is oft-stated doubts about a link between greenhouse gas emissions and climate change have led to 'concern' at cabinet level, one source said. ... The official suggested that Brussels would wait to see Romney's appointments to senior posts before drawing up plans, but said that US policy on Canada's highly polluting tar sands, and China could change." Guardian: <http://bit.ly/NP1Csvg>

FROM POLITICO'S HOLLYWOOD BUREAU: The trailer is out for "Promised Land," the fracking film starring Matt Damon, John Krasinski and Frances McDormand. The film depicts Damon as a natural gas sales executive paying big money for mineral rights in a small town, while Krasinski plays a local farmer raising hay about pollution from the rural town's new source of surprise wealth. Watch: <http://bit.ly/NPPYxD>

OBAMA GIVES ENERGY SHOUT OUT IN UN ADDRESS: From the president's remarks before the UN general assembly

yesterday: "Understand America will never retreat from the world. We will bring justice to those who harm our citizens and our friends, and we will stand with our allies. We are willing to partner with countries around the world to deepen ties of trade and investment, and science and technology, energy and development - all efforts that can spark economic growth for all our people and stabilize democratic change."

ATR MAILER HITTING OBAMA ON WIND FARM FALSE, FACT CHECKER SAYS: PolitiFact gives an Americans for Tax Reform mailer claiming Obama gave \$450 million to a Chinese company to build a Texas wind farm a "pants on fire" rating. "The wind farm was never built, the project sponsors never applied for government funds and never received any. These facts have been well known for at least two years and were publicly reported several times. The source cited by Americans for Tax Reform noted that the project had not been funded." <http://bit.ly/Q7hEuH>

ENCANA TO EPA: WE WANT PAVILLION DATA: Natural gas producer Encana asked EPA earlier this month to turn over "key technical data and information" and communications regarding EPA's well testing in Pavillion, Wyo. Without the data, Encana said, it can't properly respond to EPA's study on potential water contamination from fracking activities. The company asks EPA to put off an Oct. 16 comment deadline "in light of the need to integrate the new analytical data and to make public all of the information Encana and others have sought relating to EPA's activities in Pavillion field," the company wrote in a Sept. 6 letter released Tuesday. The letter: <http://politico.pro/QjEwL1>

- An Encana spokesman tells ME that the U.S. Geological Survey is expected to release its data from one of the two wells in question today.

GREEN BIZ GROUP URGES DOE ON CR SPENDING: Now that the continuing resolution has been passed, The Energy Department should continue to fund programs at the same level as fiscal year 2012 and not move money around - particularly DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy writes. "Moving funds around within these programs is very damaging for the businesses, non-profits, universities and other organizations that contract with the Department," the group wrote. Letter to DOE: <http://bit.ly/S3RGYW>. Letter to OMB: <http://bit.ly/Q7AotS>

** A message from America's Natural Gas Alliance: According to the latest Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report, the average weekly income for a worker in natural gas and oil development is \$1,576. That's a 21% raise from pre-recession/pre-shale boom 2007. Read more: <http://bit.ly/Ogn1ML> **

PRO FINANCE IS ONLY A DAY AWAY: POLITICO Pro Finance hits the ground running this week. Pro will deliver the latest news on the intersection of Washington and Wall Street throughout the day via breaking news alerts, quick Whiteboard items and in-depth journalism - plus invitations to subscriber-only events. Financial Services readers will get an enhanced version of Morning Money every day by 6 a.m. (Nonsubscribers will get the current version of Morning Money at 8 a.m.) Pro Tax readers will receive an exclusive newsletter intensely focused on tax policy. To learn more, contact Pro Services at (703) 341-4600 or info@politicopro.com.

BRAINZZZZZZZZZZ: Washington state has confirmed its first cases of "zombie bees," in which a parasite "causes them to fly at night and lurch around erratically until they die." AP: <http://yhoo.it/RXVKdf>

QUICK HITS

- Elizabeth Warren and Scott Brown traded barbs over news Tuesday that Warren once helped a steel company petition the Supreme Court to get out of paying into a fund for retired coal miners' health care. Boston Globe: <http://b.globe.com/VFMG0K>

- The Service Employees International Union District 1199 is threatening to take legal action over Murray Corp. miners allegedly forced to attend a Romney rally last month. Earlier this week Progress Ohio filed a complaint with the FEC. WTRF: <http://bit.ly/Sx18sW>

- Solar manufacturers are asking the EU to broaden its investigation in Chinese solar products. New York Times: <http://nyti.ms/RfjwEs>

- A federal judge has tossed New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's looking for a full environmental review before the Delaware River Basin Commission OKs natural gas drilling. AP: <http://bo.st/QwBF0Q>

- Nevada Geothermal may hand over ownership of a Nevada power plant to a lender after projecting it will generate less power than expected. Bloomberg: <http://buswk.co/UtWOqQ>

- House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton will hold two debates against Democrat Mike O'Brien. Kalamazoo Gazette:
<http://bit.ly/SvS6fX>

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